

Listing of Claims/Amendments to the Claims.

The listing of claims that follows will replace all prior versions in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An optical fiber splicer comprising:

a pair of retaining means for retaining optical fibers to be spliced;

a block having a groove of V-shaped cross-section; and

abutment and pressure-contact means for sliding terminal portions of said optical fibers in mutually opposite directions along said groove of V-shaped cross-section producing substantially equal elastic forces in said terminal portions, bringing said terminal portions into abutment and bringing said abutted terminal portions into pressure contact, said abutment and pressure-contact means including a slide member having a first end fixed to the undersurface of said block and a second end having a laterally extending arm, a shaft having means for adjusting the vertical position of said block and an eccentric cam coaxially fixed on said shaft, a base for axially supporting said eccentric cam, an adjustable stop for fine adjustment of the position of said base, and tension springs connected between said arm of said slide member and said base for energizing said slide member toward said eccentric cam, the amount of elongation of said tension springs capable of being set to avoid breakage of said fibers by pressure contact forces that exceed the stress tolerance of said fibers, said tension springs holding said block ~~if~~when said eccentric cam is rotated beyond the set amount of elongation of said tension springs, and a housing for accommodating said slide member, said laterally extending arm, said shaft, said eccentric cam, said base and said tension springs.

Claims 2-6 Canceled